



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

MAERTENS et al

Atty. Ref.: 2551-97; Confirmation No. 5719

Appl. No. 09/686,964

TC/A.U. 1648

Filed: October 12, 2000

Examiner: Hill

For: IMPROVED IMMUNODIAGNOSTIC ASSAYS USING REDUCING AGENTS

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February 9, 2005

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Responsive to the Official Action dated September 9, 2004, entry and consideration of the following remarks, and the attached Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Petition for Suspension of Action for three (3) months, are requested; the period for response having been extended up to and including February 9, 2005, by submission of the requisite petition and fee, attached.